Static Oil Production

178. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PAN] CKER: Will the Minister of PETRO LEUM AND NATURAL GAS to pleased to state;

(a) whether production of oil has been static during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether Government have plans to boost the crude pro duction to meet the increasing de mand of petroleum products in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER O*F* STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) Though production of oil has not been static, the following steps have been taken to increase crude production: —

(i) Intensification of exploration, whilh may eventually lead to enhanced production.

(ii) Intensification of work-over operations.

(iii) Use of enhanced oil recovery techniques; and

(iv) Induction of advanced tech-nology.

Flariag up of Gas

179. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what quantity of natural gas this, in terms of its production cost of the country;

(b) what is the net loss per day to this, in terms of its production east as well as in terms of its issue price;

(c) what action is contemplated to reduce this flaring up of gas; and

(d) whether any time bound pro-gramme has been chalked out in thi regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE *OF* THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT); (a) The total quantity of gas flared in 1986-87 in the country was about 3000 million cubic metre

(b) The value of this gas, at *the* rate of Rs. 100 per 1000 M3, is about Rs. 30 crores,

(c) and (d) The following steps are being taken to reduce flaring: —

—Additional compression facilities are being provided in the Wes-term off-shore region.

—Plans are being made for util sation of small quantities of natural gas, which is being flared in isolated fields in Gujarat region.

—In the Eastern Region, ONGC and OIL have committed gas to new consumers.

—GAIL have also undertaken a study on connecting various oil/ gas fields in Assam by network, pipeline to form a Grid.

—Fall-back consumers arebeingdeveloped to utilise gas whenregu lar consumers fail to lift thecom mitted quantities.

Oil Exploratio n in Kerala and West Bengal

180. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to begin off-shore oil exploration in Kerala and West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is expected to be started?'